for noon-day feeding of poor children; the contribution to be made by Government is one-third of the actual expenditure and the gross cost is estimated at Rs. 12 lakhs. The Government Training Institution has been recoganised; the system of physical training and the provision of playing fields in schools is proposed to be extended and continued. To cope with the increasing work of the department a new division of Inspectorate with staff is proposed to be created from 1120.

Medical, Ayurveda and Public Health Departments which are in charge of the health of the people receive enhanced allotments in the comming year. Some of the important features of the medical Budget which exceeds the Revised estimste of Rs. 8·0 lakhs by Rs. 1·09 lakhs are the revision of pay of the nursing staff, the creation of the post of an Assistant Surgeon for the Ophthalmatic department and for the Mental Hospital, entertainment of a further batch of pupil nurses and additional servants, the proposed higher training of nurses at Delhi, the large provision of about Rs. 0·16 lakh for improvement to Kuriarkutty Dispensary and the provision for intensifying the Hookworm campaign.

Ayurveda is undergoing steady expansion. A special contribution of Rs. 10,000 is allotted for improving the buildings for the manufacturing section. Five more Vaidyasalas are to be opened for which there is a lump provision of Rs. 3,870 and the pay of some of the posts of the department is to be revised. The Senior Physican at Ernakulam and the Taluk Phpsicans will be pleased on a better scale of pay and the two Honorary nursing sisters attached to the Ernakulam Hospital will be getting an honorarium of Rs 25 each per mensem. The Hospitals at places other than Trichur will also thus become gradualy fully equipped and medical aid of a fairly high order will be made available in all parts of the State.

Public Health continues to receive the earnest attention of Government and it has been possible to curb in the initial stage itself the occasionally threatening outbreaks of epidemics. Mosquito control operations in the two major towns of Ernakulam and Mattancheri are to be strengthened with the creation of the new post of Malariologist. I may recount here the various measures attempted to improve the standard of Public Health. Provision is made for entertaining more midwives so as to have one midwife for each Panchayat area; two Health Centres are to be started at a cost of Rs. 10,000 one at Cranganur and the other at Ollur, two candidates are proposed to be sent for advanced training in the Lady Reading Health School, New Delhi and the hookworm menace at Cranganur is to be rooted out for which a large provision of over Rs. 11,000 is made. As regards administrative reforms mention may be made of the revision of the scale of pay of Health Officers to a grade on a par with Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical Department with a compensatory allowance in lieu of private practice, grant of allowances to the Medical Officer for Epidemics and the two Lady Medical Officers of Maternity and Childwelfare Centre, entertainment of a Manager on Rs. 100—150, a Statistician on Rs. 60—100 and strengthening of the establishment of the office of the Director.

Public Works.—Difficulties in executing works of large magnitude are well known in these days of scarcity of labour and material and the high tender rates. Nevertheless "Public Works" gets decent allotments (Rs. 21·50 lakhs) though new works have been reduced to the minimum. Keeping the non-escapability criterion in the forefront, only essential works of urgency are taken. Maintenance works are continued on the same high level of efficiency and a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs is provided in lump over and above the usual allotment to cover the extra cost. With this it is hoped that our roads will be put in proper order, able to stand the heavy traffic that now passes through them. Liberal provisions have been made for irrigation works with a view to aid more extensive cultivation. The more important original works under irrigation are.—

(*i*) Extension of Ayacut under Manapat Chira.
(*ii*) Mullurkayal Reservoir scheme.
(*iii*) Lift Irrigation works in Chalakkudi River.
(*iv*) Chalakkudi Irrigation scheme.
(*v*) Thanikudam scheme.
(*vi*) Putting up groynes in coastal areas.

The successful completion of these schemes will go a great way in solving the food problem of the State and it is fervently hoped that Nature will aid our efforts to realise the desired result.

SOCIO ECONOMIC

The Socio economic services like Co-operation and Uplift of the Depressed Classes have got their due place in the Budget before you. Much is expected of Co-operation in the matter of judicious distribution of the essentials of life in these days of acute shortage and in the days

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hereafter when the conditions would have got completly revolutionised. The Co-operative Enquiry Committee's report is under the review of Government and pending decision on the various recommendation the usual allotments are provided for the ensuing year. The Central Marketing Society is receiving every encouragement in its work. A sum of Rs. 5,000 has been allotted out of the special contribution for development of cottage industries in Depressed Class Colonies. Enhanced provisions for stipends and supply of school requisites and cloths to the Depressed Class students have also been provided.

REVENUE RESERVE FUND

With the proposed transfer of Rs. 20 lakhs from the surplus of 1118 to the Revenue Reserve Fund and the yearly appropriations therefrom the fund is estimated to stand at Rs. 51·75 lakhs at the end of the coming year. The objection sometimes heard that conservation of money in such a fund when there are other more pressing vital requirements would not have been without some force if there were any essential but neglected needs of the present. A perusal of the Budgets of the years following the outbreak of War would show that vital schemes for food production, etc., have been duly undertaken and if any schemes had to be put off it was not for want of money or willingness to take them up but for other insuperable difficulties such as shortage of materials, labour, etc. The after-map of war is sure to confront us with very difficult problems and the post-war reconstruction schemes which have to be launched should find us fully equipped with the necessary funds. Hence the policy of conserving funds which the Government is steadily pursuing stands justified.

WAYS AND MEANS

The developments of the war have been increasingly felt in the ways and means programme of the Government. Procurement and distribution of food materials and other essentials all the State over, on a gigantic scale have largely swelled the financial operations.

The year 1118 closed with a net asset of Rs. 123·03 lakhs of which Rs. 108·80 lakhs lay in capital outlay - investments. The net asset is estimated to rise to Rs. 141·54 lakhs and to Rs. 158·14 lakhs as per the Estimate of the current year and the ensuing year. The outlay in Capital works will stand at Rs. 117·64 lakhs at the end of 1119 and Rs. 130·63 lakhs at the end of 1120.

Thanks to the progress in the economic condition of the people at large the financial position of the State is improving year by year. The Debt head transactions are however mounting high. Ordinarily a cash balance of Rs. 50·00 lakhs would have been ample for the transactions of the State. But the Food Supply measures, Labour Advances and Advances for Acquisition of lands for Military purposes, etc., have necessitated the outlay of large funds. In 1119, an advance of Rs. 500 lakhs is estimated for the Food Supply measures, Rs. 16·00 lakhs for land for Military purposes and Civil aerodromes, Rs.31·20 lakhs for Standard Cloth and Rs. 41·29 lakhs for Labour recruitment thus aggregating to Rs. 588·49 lakhs, excluding other ordinary advances. The liquid resources of the Government at the beginning of 1119 were Rs. 116·13 lakhs consisting of Rs. 90·46 lakhs in Fixed Deposits and Securities and Rs. 25·67 lakhs as cash in Banks and Treasuries. It should be mentioned here that stock to the value of Rs. 4 ·28 lakhs was with the Government at the end of 1118. Against this the current year had a programme of total receipts—both Service and Debt heads amounting to Rs 2722·94 lakhs and of disbursements amounting to the tune of Rs. 2700·49 lakhs. As it was considered inexpedient to convert the gilt-edged securities into cash, an overdraft accommodation has been arranged on reasonable terms to cover the programme. The current year will have to draw upon this overdraft to an aggregate amount of Rs. 200 lakhs. The ensuing year also bids fair to be one of heavy programme on account of the Food supply and other measures on an equally intensive scale. The drawals for advances on account of Food supply measures are expected to come to Rs. 520 lakhs, for Labour recruitment to Rs, 41·29 lakhs and for advances for stocking Standard Cloth to Rs. 3 ·00 lakhs. The total receipts both service and debt heads for the year are estimated to stand at Rs. 2567·27 lakhs and the total expenditure at Rs. 2566·77 lakhs. Against this pregramme the opening balances of liquid resources will be Rs. 178·86 lakhs of which Rs. 90·74 lakhs will lie in fixed deposits and securities and Rs. 88·12 lakhs as cash in Banks and Treasuries. The Ways and Means programme is to be carried out with an aggregate drawal of Rs. 250 lakhs on the overdraft account. Other measures suited to our requirements for raising temporary cash resources are also under consideration of the Government.

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